

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 04588 061715Z

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 STRE-00 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-06
EA-07 NEA-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07
FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 AGR-05 OIC-02
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3727

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PASS ELECTRONICALLY FOR STR - POMERANZ

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, MTN, OECD

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 3773, (B) STATE 96696

(C) POMERANZ- MURPHY TELECON 4/29

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR JOHNSTON AND INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS
OFFICER MURPHY MET WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRIAL
AFFAIRS BRAUN AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT DERISBOURG MAY 5 TO
DISCUSS EC VIEWS ON HOW TO PROCEED ON GOVERNMENT PRO-
CUREMENT EXERCISE WE MADE POINTS CONTAINED REF B RE
NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING AGREED PRACTICE OF BI-
LATERAL CONSULTATIONS TO PREPARE FOR SUCCESSFUL MULTI-
LATERAL MEETING AND OF CONSEQUENT IMPORTANCE THAT WE
SEE EC POSITION PAPERS (REF A) BEFORE AGREEING TO HOLD
SUCH A MEETING.

2. EC RESPONDED THAT SITUATION HAD CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY

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IN RECENT WEEKS. MEMBER STATES WERE NOW SOMEWHAT DIVIDED
ON DESIRABILITY OF OECD CONSULTATIONS AND THE COM-
MISSION, FOR ITS PART, HAS WRITTEN OFF THE IDEA OF
TCWP MEETING IN OECD FOR THIS SUMMER. COMMISSION
IS WAITING FOR INDICATIONS FROM LONDON SUMMIT AND BI-
LATERAL EXCHANGES ON MTN DIRECTIONS AND THE PROSPECTS FOR
HARD PUSHES FROM BOTH SIDES TO RESOLVE GOVERNMENT PROCURE-

MENT ISSUE. IF SIGNALS ARE POSITIVE AN EXPERT-LEVEL, BILATERAL MEETING COULD BE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE OR JULY WITH AN EYE TOWARDS A SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER TCWP MEETING. AT THIS BILATERAL MEETING, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT EC WOULD TABLE ITS DRAFT PROPOSALS. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE FELT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO ASK MEMBER STATES' PERMISSION TO TABLE EC PROPOSALS. DERISBOURG EXPRESSED VIEW THAT EXPERT MEETINGS WERE CRUCIAL TO AN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER AND HOW GAPS BETWEEN U.S. AND EC COULD BE BRIDGED. DEPENDING UPON RESULTS, COMMISSION WOULD HAVE TO MAKE FINAL EFFORT WITH MEMBER STATES ON SUBSTANCE. IN THIS LIGHT HE FELT THAT GENEVA MTN SUB-GROUP MEETING WOULD BE MAINLY FOR BENEFIT OF LDC'S AND COULD NOT BE THE LOCUS FOR SUCH HARD DECISIONS.

3. COMMENT: BRAUN SAID HE WAS QUITE CONCERNED WITH TIMING OF MTN EXERCISE. IN HIS VIEW, IT IS IMPERATIVE TO HAVE SOME RESULTS BEFORE THE "BEGINNING" OF THE FRENCH ELECTIONS (PROBABLY MARCH) SINCE AROUND DECEMBER POLITICIANS WOULD START TO QUOTE RUN FOR COVER UNQUOTE. THE PROSPECT OF GAINS BY THE LEFT WOULD REINFORCE FRENCH MERCHANTILIST TENDENCIES, AN ONCE THE ELECTIONS WAS IN FULL SWING IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO GET FRENCH AGREEMENT FOR MTN CONCESSIONS.
HINTON

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